

THE NEW YORK TIMES
New York, New York
July 12, 1963

Coffeepot Tempest

There's a tempest brewing in the coffee industry that could generate almost as much excitement as that which the tobacco industry has undergone from not-a-fewable medical reports on cigarette smoking.

Earlier this year, a Chicago research team, after a five-year study of 2,000 workers, reported its findings to the American Heart Association. Several trade journals and weeklies gave it passing reference and then this week, a major newspaper turned the findings into an article entitled "Heart Ills Linked to Heavy Coffee Intake."

The report said, according to the article, that the risk of heart trouble is "significantly" greater among men who average five or more cups of coffee a day.

At the Coffee Brewers Institute yesterday, a spokesman said "a greater accumulation of information" was needed before he could give substance to the report. He thought it was "premature" to comment further.

MORNING NEWS

Erie, Penna.

June 15, 1963

Cigarettes Assailed As Primary Cause of Cancer in Bronchial Tubes

By WALTER C. ALVAREZ, M.D.

At this point not again, as I have before a number of times in this column, that some 20 studies now have shown that people who are heavy cigarette smokers are much more than normally subject to the development of cancer in the bronchi (the tubes which carry air into and out of the lungs). It has also been shown that cigarette smoke contains several carcinogens—chemical substances which can produce if repeatedly rubbed



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into the skin of a rabbit or a mouse.

I have been much interested in the work of Auerbach and his co-workers who showed the marked swelling of the inner lining of the bronchi that is to be found in people who smoke two or three packages of cigarettes a day. The extensiveness of these changes goes hand in hand with the amount of smoking done. The changes in the lining of the bronchi can account for a bad cigarette cough, and they can account for the fact that sometimes when a chain-smoker gets pneumonia, he dies within a couple of days, because he has no resistance to infection.

Another fact which to me is very significant is that often in the much-swollen inner lining of the bronchi of heavy smokers, one can see what are called "pre-cancerous changes"; in other words, one can see the beginnings of the cancers which will form later.

Because some men have not been satisfied with the interpretation of the many studies made of cigarette smoke and cancer, and because some have expressed their belief that heavy smoking and a high incidence of cancer are both due to some cause as yet undetermined, it was a good idea to see if the frequent application of tiny amounts of a condensate of cigarette smoke (some call it cigarette smoke tar) will cause bronchial cancer in dogs. These animals have no "emotional tendency to smoke cigarettes" and they have almost no tendency to de-

velop bronchial cancer.

Each one of the many dogs used, first—under anesthesia—had a little window made through the skin of the neck and into the trachea (the main tube that runs from the throat down into the lungs). Through such a little window it is easy to pass a lighted bronchoscope—without hurting the animal. For perhaps five, years three times a week, a tiny amount of "cigarette tar" was applied to the wall of the left main bronchus of 130 dogs. Twenty-five other dogs just had the bronchial lining rubbed a bit, and 27 were not treated in any way. They served as "controls"—to show that there was nothing in the air of the kennels to make the cancers. Actually, nothing happened to them.

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